

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER
FOR THE YEAR

1950

WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1950

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)

DR. WILLIAM MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,
Albert Place, Little Lever. (Telephone, Farnworth 39)

Sanitary Inspector (Joint Appointment, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector)

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Council Offices, Little Lever. (Telephone, Farnworth 637)

OTHER OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Accountant

WILLIAM KELLY.

Surveyor (Joint Appointment, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector)

CHARLES A. FORD, M.S.I.A.

Collector

JAMES C. COLLINGE.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Urban District of Little Lever
for the year 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the
Little Lever Urban District Council:

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever during the year ended December 31st, 1950.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,791, compared with 4,944 in the 1931 Census. There are 1,588 inhabited houses in the district, as compared with 1,605 in 1949, and 1,443 in the 1931 Census. This gives a rate of approximately three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £22,097, and the sum raised by a penny rate is approximately £83.

Social conditions are fairly good, and there is practically no unemployment. The district is chiefly industrial in character, the main industries being cotton weaving, paper making, ebonite and plastics manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and dairy farming.

Births

The number of live births registered in 1950 was 60, as against 63 in 1949. This figure is made up of 30 males and 30 females. There was one illegitimate birth, this being a female. The birth-rate is 12.8 per 1,000 of population, compared with 13.2 in 1949, and a mean rate of 17.3 for the previous five years. The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1950 was 15.8.

Still Births

There were no still births in 1950. This gives a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, compared with a rate of 45 for 1949.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1950 was 81. This number comprises 42 males and 39 females. This is an increase of 21 on the figure for 1949. The death-rate for 1950 is 17.6 per 1,000 of population, as against 12.6 for 1949, and a mean rate of 14.9 for the previous five years. The death-rate for England and Wales in 1950 was 11.6. The average age at death was 62 years for males, and 65 years for females, approximately.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of children under the age of one year, in 1950, was 4. This is made up of 2 males and 2 females, and is an increase of 4 on the figure for 1949. This is equal to a rate of 67 per 1,000 of live births as against Nil in 1949, and a mean rate of 40 for the previous five years. The infantile mortality-rate for England and Wales in 1950 was 29.8.

Maternal Mortality

Again, there were no maternal deaths in 1950, thus giving a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, the same as in 1949, and a mean rate of Nil for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality-rate for England and Wales in 1950 was 0.17 per 1,000 of total births.

Midwifery Services

There are no resident midwives in the district, but there are three midwives on the list of midwives engaged by the County Council. These three reside in Farnworth, and are available for the Little Lever area. All three are readily accessible, as they are all on the telephone. The service provided by them has been very efficient and wholly satisfactory, with no cause for complaint. Many maternity cases were admitted to the Bolton District General Hospital, and to other Maternity Homes outside the district, but many women were confined in their own homes.

General Provision of Health Services for the District

<u>Clinics and Treatment Centres</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Provided by</u>
Maternity and Child Welfare School Clinic	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.
	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.

Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases during 1950:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths in Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	7	3	4	2	Nil	Nil
Measles	38	23	15	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	59	34	25	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	2	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	2	1	1	1	Nil	Nil
	<u>108</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Sex and Age Incidence in Infectious Diseases

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>		<u>Measles</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Acute Pneumonia</u>		<u>Erysipelas</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
1 - 3	1	-	3	1	7	13	-	-	-	-
3 - 5	-	1	4	5	15	6	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	1	3	15	9	8	3	1	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals:-	3	4	23	15	34	25	1	1	1	1

Tuberculosis

New cases and Mortality during 1950:-

<u>Age</u> <u>Periods</u> <u>Years</u>	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
	4		0		1		0	

At the end of 1950, the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was 26, comprising 21 Respiratory Cases and 5 Non-Respiratory Cases.

The Death-Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1950 was Nil, as against Nil per 1,000 of population in 1949, and a mean rate of 0.22 for the previous five years.

The Death-Rate from Tuberculosis for England and Wales in 1950, was 0.36 per 1,000 of population.

Causes of Death

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1950:-

<u>Diseases Causing Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	--	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1	1
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	2	4
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	3	8
Coronary Disease, Angina	10	1	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	9	10	19
Other Circulatory Disease	1	3	4
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	2	4	6
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	2	5	7
All other accidents	2	1	3
Total:-		<u>42</u>	<u>39</u>
		<u>81</u>	

There were 13 deaths from Cancer in 1950, compared with 14 in 1949. This gives a death rate of 2.71 per 1,000 of population, as against 2.94 in 1949, and a mean rate of 2.09 for the previous five years.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

As in 1949, no cases of this disease were notified during 1950.

District Nursing

There is one District Nurse residing in the district. As in previous years, she has given devoted service to the community, and has carried out her duties most efficiently and in a kindly and cheerful manner.

Hospital and Ambulance Services

The district is adequately served in the matter of hospital accommodation, and no difficulty has been encountered in getting patients admitted when necessary. There is, however, considerable delay at times, in getting appointments for consultations in the Out-Patients' Department.

The ambulance service has functioned very well, and has been quite adequate and efficient for all calls made upon it.

Adoptive Acts in force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, Part 4.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, Parts 2 and 4.

Public Health Acts, 1925 (Part 2, except Sections 22 and 25).

Sanitary Accommodation

The types of sanitary accommodation, with the numbers of each type at the end of 1950, were as follows:-

Privy Middens	2
Closets attached to these Middens	2
Pail Closets	8
Waste Water Closets	60
Fresh Water Closets	1,631
Movable Ashbins	1,599
Number of houses on Water Carriage System ...	1,596

During the year, eight waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

Sanitary Inspections

During 1950, the number of premises visited for sanitary inspections was 188. As a result of these visits, 83 defects or nuisances were discovered. Of these, 56 were abated as a result of issuing 36 informal notices. No statutory notices were issued, and no legal proceedings were necessary.

Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found to be in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

There are seven dairy farms in the district, and the milk produced from these has been satisfactory in quality.

Factories and workshops have been inspected from time to time, and their condition has been found to be quite satisfactory.

Food shops have also been inspected and found to be in clean and satisfactory condition. Owners and employees have been instructed as to the importance of cleanliness in the handling of foodstuffs.

Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains, and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with a piped supply being 1,596. Samples of the water supply were taken during 1950 for chemical and bacteriological analysis. Thirty samples, taken from the water going into supply, for chemical analysis, were classed as satisfactory; and 137 samples, for bacteriological analysis were classed as mainly satisfactory. The water supply comes from reservoirs into which upland surface water runs. All waters are chlorinated, and any waters with a plumbago-solvent action are lime treated.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The arrangements for sewage disposal were quite satisfactory during the year. The sewage is treated by screening, sedimentation and filtration. No extensions to the sewage works were carried out in 1950. Samples of the effluent were tested periodically by the Inspectors of the Lancashire Rivers Board, and were classed as satisfactory. There are a few isolated cottages without sewerage systems, owing to there being no sewer in the vicinity.

The sewers and the manholes have been inspected from time to time. Sewers have been flushed and manholes cleaned, and measures have been taken to keep rats under control.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal (cont.)

House refuse is collected by the Council's covered motor wagon. Collections are made each week in winter, and at fortnightly intervals during the summer. Privy closets, of which there are now only two in the district, are emptied each fortnight. Such cesspools as there are, are kept in order by their owners. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on waste land.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council are members of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The time-limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per half-hour. There are fifteen factory and works chimneys in the district, and twenty observations were made on these during the year, but no legal proceedings were required. Personal contact is made with managers and firemen, and willing co-operation from all has been encountered in the efforts to minimise the pollution of the atmosphere.

Housing

No new houses were erected by the Local Authority during 1950, and only one new house was erected by other bodies or persons.

Number of Houses owned by Local Authority

1. Under 1919 Scheme	113
2. Under Housing Act, 1923	11
3. Under Housing Act, 1924	122
4. Erected during 1936	30
5. Erected during 1937	38
6. Erected during 1938	34
7. Erected during 1947	14
8. Erected during 1948	32
9. Erected during 1949	<u>44</u>
Total	<u>438</u>

Housing Conditions

The general standard of housing in the district compares quite favourably with that of neighbouring townships. The prevalent type of house is the four-roomed cottage, containing two bedrooms. There are about 900 of this type in the district, but of these there are at least 200 which are in poor condition, and which are very much below the general standard. The chief defects in these houses are dampness, low ceilings, old age, absence of bathrooms, poor sanitary conveniences, absence of hot-water systems, poor water pressure, and bad siting. They are mostly built in rows, facing other rows, with no gardens, and with little or no opportunity of enjoying any sunshine. But for the war, and post-war difficulties, they would have long ago been demolished under Clearance Schemes. They cannot possibly be made fit except by unreasonable expenditure, as many of them are well over 100 years old, and they have outlived their period of usefulness. There can be little chance of living healthy lives and rearing healthy families in such poor houses.

No new houses were completed by the Local Authority during the year. Thus, in the four years since building was allowed, only 90 new houses have been built. The Mytham Road Housing Scheme has been planned for a total of 350 houses, but with a building-rate of 90 houses in four years, and a likelihood, in present conditions, of

Housing Conditions (cont.)

a curtailment in the building of new houses, it is obviously going to be many years before the scheme is completed, and with a waiting list of approximately 350 persons wanting houses, this is a matter which should give rise to serious concern on the part of all involved in the solving of the housing problem.

There is still a very great shortage of three- and four-bedroomed houses, as well as a need for small bungalows for the aged persons. Much better use of building land could be made if small blocks of flats and bungalows with a communal lawn were erected more than they are at present.

Town Planning

The Council have a representative on the Divisional Planning Committee set up under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. There is very good liaison between the Council and the Committee, and the Council endeavours at all times to work in close collaboration with the Divisional Committee, in order that local planning should be in line with County Planning.

Disinfection

Thirteen houses were disinfected during the year, after notifications of infectious diseases. The method used is Formic Aldehyde in the sealed room of the house.

In addition, two Council houses and one other house were disinfested by Cyanide Gas, and Yaldecide Spray. After disinfection has been carried out, regular visits and inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspector, in order to ensure, as far as possible, that the houses are kept clean.

Public Health Laboratory

There was no necessity to make use of the services of the Laboratory during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Divisional Medical Officer now has the records of children immunised. Immunisations and re-immunisations of children have been carried out steadily during the year, and it is again gratifying to note that not one case of diphtheria was notified during 1950.

General Observations

The general health of the district during 1950 was reasonably good. Both the death-rate and the birth-rate, however, compare rather unfavourably with the rates for England and Wales, but the Maternal Mortality-Rate is again very favourable. The Infantile Mortality-Rate shows a big increase owing to there being a Nil rate for 1949. The average age at death was rather lower than in 1949, the age being 62 years as against 66 years for males, and 65 years as against 68 years for females.

There was a mild epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough during the year, but there were no serious cases and no complications.

The number of deaths from Cancer was 13, as against 14 in 1949, and once again there were no deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis.

General Observations (cont.)

The year was very disappointing as regards progress in housing. For the first time since 1947, not a single house was completed by the Local Authority during the year, and only one house was built by private persons. No cases of overcrowding were reported, but with a waiting-list of about 350, and so many young married couples living with their in-laws, that is not to say that overcrowding does not exist. There are, in fact, many cases where conditions are far from satisfactory, but until much faster progress is made in the building of new houses, it would appear that the waiting-list and the cases of overcrowding will be with us for many years to come. The district is greatly in need of modern three- and four-bedroomed houses, and there are far too many old houses which ought to have been demolished long ago and replaced by new houses. Unfortunately, with world conditions as they are, there seems little prospect of any immediate improvement in the housing situation.

The recreational facilities provided by the Council have again been much appreciated, but as in past years, one has to record the opinion that there is a great need for more to be provided. The younger people of the district have nothing beyond a playing field provided for them. If tennis courts, one or two football pitches and two or three concrete cricket pitches could be laid out, they would be well patronised, and would probably help, in no small way, in eradicating juvenile delinquency.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic provided by the County Council has again been of great benefit to the district, but is still the same old inadequate clinic which the district has had to put up with for so many years.

In conclusion, one can say that steady progress has been made in improving the amenities of the district, and even if the progress in some departments has been slow, at least there has been a praiseworthy effort to keep up the progress in face of ever-increasing difficulties.

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

22nd August, 1951.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of Little Lever, for the
year 1950, on the Administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	11	9	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	23	18	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority; (excluding 'out-workers' premises).	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.....		34	27	Nil	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were found			No. of Cases where Prosec- utions instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspec. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4				
Overcrowding (S.2)	5				
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	6				
Inadequate Ventltn. (S.4)	7				
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	8				
San. Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or Defctv.	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not sep. for sexes	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.....	60	1	1	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of Out-wkrs. in August list reqd. by Sectn. 110(1)(c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of Prosec- utions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prose- cutions (8)
Wearing Apparel	(Making, etc. (Cleaning & Washing	13					
Household linen	14						
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets	15						
Curtains & Furniture Hangings	16						
Furniture & Upholstery	17						
Electro-plate	18						
File-making	19						
Brass & Brass Articles	20						
Fur Pulling	21						
Iron & Steel Cables and Chains	22						
Iron & Steel Anchors and Grapnels	23						
Cart Gear	24						
Locks, Latches & Keys	25						
Umbrellas, etc.	26						
Artificial Flowers	27						
Nets, other than Wire Nets	28						
Tents	29						
Sacks	30						
Racquet and Tennis Balls	31						
Paper Bags	32						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof, made wholly or partially of paper	33						
Brush making	34						
Pea Picking	35						
Feather sorting	36						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	37						
Stuffed toys	38						
Basket making	39						
Chocolates & sweetmeats	40						
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc.	41						
Textile Weaving	42						
Lampshades	43						
	44						
TOTAL	70	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Signature:- W. MOTTERSHEAD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Date:- 22nd August, 1951.

